ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month's *Via Fidelis* activity is "Read online about the saint of the day." As we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and commemorate All Souls in November, we remember in a special way the men, women and children whose lives became living examples of Christ's own ministry.

The beautiful thing about exploring the lives of saints is that each one shares a unique story of inner conversion and witness to the truth. Some saints seemed to know their calling almost from childhood. From his earliest years in Peru, St. Martin de Porres, whom we venerate Nov. 3, gave himself to prayer and the care of the poor and sick. He never wavered from that path of humble service. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, whose feast falls on Nov. 13, dreamed as a young girl of becoming a missionary. She spent the rest of her life carrying that childhood longing across an ocean to serve immigrants in America.

Other saints this month show us that God's timing always prevails. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, celebrated Nov. 17, lived a life of royal comfort until the sudden death of her husband left her to choose between despair and grace. She gave the rest of her short life to those in poverty or illness. St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, remembered on Nov. 18, carried a missionary dream for decades that seemed like it would never come true. She was finally sent to serve on the American frontier at age 49, and at age 71, she began a mission among the Potawatomi people of the Midwest. They came to call her "the woman who always prays." The witness of these saints reminds us that it is never too late for God to fulfill what he has planted in a heart.

Whether a saint found holiness at seven or 71, each one shows us that sanctity is found in an ordinary life offered without reserve to God. I ask that each of you approach this month with that same spirit of trust, letting these holy men and women accompany you through daily prayer. Make "the saint of the day" a small habit this month along the *Via Fidelis*. A few minutes online or with a devotional can allow one holy life to speak to yours.

This November, I invite you to adopt one saint from the month's calendar as your companion. Ask for their intercession, read their story and let their witness accompany you through these weeks when the Church turns her heart toward the advent of Christ's birth.

All you holy men and women, saints of God, pray for us!

In Christ's love,

+ Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS

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